

REMARKS

Applicant appreciates the Examiner's thorough consideration provided the present application. Claims 1-18 are now present in the application. Claims 19-21 has been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 1 and 5 are independent. Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner has indicated that claims 1-18 are allowed. Applicant appreciates the indication of allowable subject matter by the Examiner.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 19-21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Okumura et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,331,844 (hereinafter "Okumura"), in view of Hush et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,069,451 (hereinafter "Hush"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Without conceding to the propriety of the Examiner's rejection, but merely to timely advance the prosecution of the application, as the Examiner will note, claims 19-21 have been cancelled. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that this rejection has been obviated and/or rendered moot. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103 are respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

All the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed and/or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all presently pending rejections and that they be withdrawn.

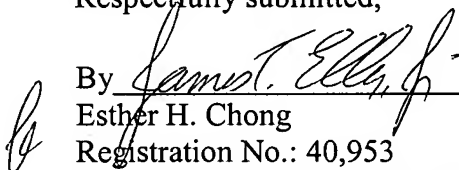
It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the Office Action, and that as such, the Examiner is respectfully requested to send the application to Issue.

In the event there are any matters remaining in this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (703) 205-8000 in the Washington, D.C. area.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

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